

to Martin—suggests that these attacks are dependent upon a preliminary dilation and represent an endeavor on the part of the heart to make up by rapidity of contraction for insufficiency of the individual beat; this in its turn tends to induce more dilation and thus a vicious circle develops. In such patients the prognosis is somewhat different, and they should be treated with the greatest of care. I cannot criticize the tracings of Dr. Schmoll as it is necessary to have such under one's observation and do many minute measurements before any opinion advanced is of much value. But I would like to emphasize two points, (1) that the interpretation of such things is by no means easy, and one can readily be led astray, e. g., it is only necessary to take venous tracings with the tambour close or far away from the carotid artery to recognize what errors may ensue even depending upon the position of our receiver; (2) that it is particularly difficult to say whether a given wave is due to an auricular contraction occurring coincidentally with the ventricular contraction, or to a reflex wave due to the right ventricular systolic. The size of the wave does not help us; measurements are of little aid. Perhaps we will have to depend upon the fluoroscope; but even there the factors of error arise, inasmuch as a chamber containing fluid in such apposition to another contracting chamber would naturally show some disturbance during that contraction and I must confess, that up to the present I have been totally unable to differentiate.

Dr. Schmoll, closing discussion on his paper: I agree with Dr. Moffitt that it is of the utmost importance to look for the etiological factor in these cases. In very few cases I have not found the etiological factor. In regard to paroxysmal tachycardia in thyroid disease, I have seen a number of such cases in which tachycardia was present and the case could not be classed as real goiter. In regard to the Dercum's disease, that also improves on thyroid extract. I agree that it is difficult to judge whether the auricular contraction takes place or not, from the venous tracings. I think the final decision has to come from the fluoroscope examination, not from the tracings.

PHYSICIANS RELIEF COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of the State Journal:—At a meeting of the Relief Committee of Physicians, held the 19th December, I was instructed to send you a copy of a quotation from an article which appeared in the November edition, 1906, page 621, of the Pacific Medical Journal, and our reply, and to ask if you will kindly favor us by publishing the same in the next edition of your Journal?

San Francisco, December 14th, 1906.
Winslow Anderson, M. D.,
Editor Pacific Medical Journal,
1914 Pacific Avenue.

Dear Doctor:—The attention of the Relief Committee of Physicians has been called to an article in the November edition, page 621 this year, of the Pacific Medical Journal, in which you make the following statement:

"The first item of disbursements to physicians—321—is \$23,512.80, making about \$732.48 for each. We know many physicians that have received only \$50 each from the relief fund. This would make a few that have received much more than \$732 apiece."

As the above statement is extremely erroneous—23,512.80 being divisible by 321—but 73.24 times and not 732.48 times, the Committee respectfully request that correction of same be made and proper notice of such correction be given in next edition of your Journal.

Relative to that portion of your article in which you comment upon the balance of the relief fund

on hand and its distribution, we beg to say that we are, and have been, using every effort to learn what physicians are in need, and such when found are promptly granted assistance.

Should you know of any physicians (duly registered), who are in need we will consider it a favor if you will send their names and addresses at your earliest convenience.

The Committee believes it is serving the highest and best interest of all by refusing to divulge the names of those who have received assistance from the relief fund. Such an act would be of benefit to no one; on the other hand it would be most indiscreet and injudicious on the part of this Committee to humiliate, by publication, those who, through misfortune, have been compelled to accept aid.

As to the question of notes, permit me to state that no physician has been asked to give a note, and that such notes as the Committee has in its possession have been given unsolicited by those receiving aid.

Very truly yours,
FRED W. LUX, Secretary.

May we trouble you further to announce that the Relief Committee of Physicians has a balance on hand and are still in a position to assist all regularly registered physicians who are in need?

Very truly yours,
FRED W. LUX, Secretary.

OUR RELATIVE POSITION.

A facetious writer in the December number of the "Druggists Circular" presents a capital take-off of the manner of conducting the patent medicine business and the write-ups that are an essential part of that form of fraud. He has succeeded in combining Cod Liver Oil, Oxygen, Radium and Phosphorous in one mixture, which has been given the truly descriptive name of Radio-Phospholine, and it may be implicitly relied upon to cure cancer, debility and consumption. The promoter offers to assign shares of stock to persons sending in testimonials to the effect that some friend holding a prominent position in society had been cured of cancer, consumption or nervous debility. The number of shares to be assigned will depend upon the prominence of the individual and his consequent commercial value.

"It is manifestly impossible to fix a definite price for testimonials, but I give the value I attach to those of certain people. The president of the United States, or the king of England, 1000 shares. The governor-general of Canada, or the editor of Collier's Weekly, 500 shares. The editors of the California State Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, American Medicine, the Canada Lancet, the Ladies' Home Journal, the New Idea, or the Maritime Medical Journal (Canadian), the presidents of Harvard, Yale or Johns Hopkins universities, the four senior members of the faculty of Vassar, or any bishop in good standing, 400 shares. Admirals, major-generals (regular), judges of the supreme court, ambassadors of first-rate powers, and governors, 300 shares.

"Then by easy gradations we get down to aldermen, justices of the peace, ministers of religion, trained nurses, head waiters, Pullman car conductors, returned missionaries, members of congress, and ladies who are prominent in vaudeville for whose testimonials are given from 2 to 10 shares.

"Special terms on authentic testimonials from Dr. Dowie or Mrs. Eddy."

RESIGNED FROM COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

Dr. Ernest Pring wishes us to state that he has severed his connection with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of San Francisco.